



The President's Daily Brief

16 July 1973



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

On *Page 1* we discuss Egyptian and Israeli views on the timing of Secretary General Waldheim's projected trip to the Middle East.

Meetings between Polish and West German representatives at the recent CSCE in Helsinki may have broken the impasse in bilateral relations. (*Page 2*)

The Greek junta is acting to make sure that the coming plebiscite produces an overwhelming majority in favor of conversion to a republic. (*Page 3*)

North Vietnamese and Japanese [redacted]

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[redacted] (*Page 4*)

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UN - MIDDLE EAST

The timing of Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's trip to the Middle East, which must be negotiated this week, may affect the length and substance of a resumed Security Council debate.

Egypt apparently hopes Waldheim's travels will be completed in time to permit a full Council review. Israel, on the other hand, wants the Secretary General to delay his visit until after mid-August on the assumption that his report would be overshadowed by the General Assembly session in the fall and that a formal presentation to the Council might be avoided.

Should the Security Council meet before Waldheim departs--and it is not clear whether Egypt will press for a preliminary meeting--Israel would like to limit its discussion to the formal approval of the Secretary General's visit. If Cairo is not assured of a full Council review after the Waldheim trip, however, it could easily introduce divisive issues into any prior Council meeting.

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POLAND - WEST GERMANY

Consultations at the recent CSCE in Helsinki may have cleared the way for Polish - West German relations to move off dead center.

The four meetings of Polish and West German representatives (including two between foreign ministers Olszowski and Scheel) permitted intensive negotiation on the two main issues--Bonn's wish to increase the number of ethnic Germans allowed to emigrate from Poland, and Warsaw's demands for compensation for World War II damages. The Germans are encouraged by Warsaw's willingness to discuss the emigration issue, by the Poles' admission that there remain "substantial numbers" of "undisputed ethnic Germans" in Poland, and by their promise to consider how to increase the flow of emigres.

The Germans continued to reject Warsaw's compensation demands, but dangled the prospect of increased economic cooperation. Olszowski, for his part, said that Warsaw might itself be willing to compensate Polish citizens for wartime damages in return for long-term economic aid from Bonn--the formula worked out between Bonn and Belgrade earlier this year.

The improved prospect for normalizing relations on the basis of the 1970 treaty appears to have been largely the result of Poland's initiative. Little substantive progress is likely, however, until late October when Scheel is tentatively scheduled to visit Warsaw.

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GREECE

The junta is moving to ensure a large "yes" vote in the plebiscite on July 29 to confirm the country's conversion to a republic and embark Prime Minister Papadopoulos on an eight-year presidential term.

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[redacted] the government could obtain a favorable vote of 55 to 60 percent without tampering with the process. [redacted]

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[redacted] the government will add to that total enough to make the final figure somewhere in the "healthy 80s."

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Those politicians who have agreed to support the republic are already being interviewed for posts in the new government. Several have been offered jobs. [redacted]

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Although many officers favor Markezinis' entry into the government, Papadopoulos may be reluctant to have such an independent figure in that high a position.

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NOTES

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Japan - North Vietnam:

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